

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER  
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM  
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

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**Project Details**

**1. Project title:** Oregon Work Incentive Network

**2. Organization name and address** (the recipient of the funds):

State of Oregon Department of Human Services'  
Children Adults and Families Division's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
500 Summer Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1120

**3. Contact information**

**a. Project's primary contact:**

Stephaine Parrish-Taylor, Administrator  
State of Oregon Department of Human Services' Children Adults and Families Division's  
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

**b. Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:**

Office: 1-503-945-6201

**c. Email Address:** stephaine.taylor@state.or.us

**d. Project location (if different than organization's address):**

Work Incentives Network is housed in the following nine Centers for Independent Living sites across Oregon:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bend;          | 6. Pendleton;    |
| 2. Eugene;        | 7. Portland;     |
| 3. Grant's Pass;  | 8. Roseburg; and |
| 4. Klamath Falls; | 9. Salem.        |
| 5. Ontario;       |                  |

**4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.**

State of Oregon Department of Human Services' Children Adults and Families Division's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, a statewide program, assists individuals with disabilities in getting and keeping a job that matches their skills, interests and abilities. OVRs staff works in partnership with the community and businesses to develop employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

The Work Incentives Network (WIN) is a pilot program funded through a contractual relationship between the State of Oregon Department of Human Services' Children, Adults and Families Division's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRs) and seven Oregon Centers for Independent Living.

WIN assists people with disabilities to understand and use employment programs in Oregon and/or federal work incentives programs to obtain, maintain or advance in employment while continuing to meet critical needs such as housing and health care. Since November 2007 WIN has assisted over 2,600 Oregonians from all disability groups regardless of temporary or permanent impairment to make a choice about going to work or increasing hours and pay. WIN is coordinated by staff paid for through Oregon's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) who are "limited duration" state employees housed in OVRs. WIN infrastructure includes extensive annual training and certification for contracted staff. All equipment and outreach materials for the WIN program are paid for through the MIG.

**5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?**

A public entity; State of Oregon Department of Human Services.

**6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?**

Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration

**7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (no more than 500 words).**

The Work Incentives Network (WIN) provides benefits and work incentives planning supports and services at no cost to assist people with disabilities in increasing their employment and income while decreasing health-related costs and dependence on public assistance. Funding would cover a total of 12 WIN staff and allow operation of WIN through the next biennium.

WIN's purpose is to increase the employment and income of the over 400,000 Oregonians with disabilities who are 16 years of age or older while decreasing their health-related costs and their dependence on public assistance through planning for and learning about opportunities in federal and state work incentive programs.

WIN's goal is elimination of the receipt of public assistance by as many participants as possible, thereby decreasing the need for State General Funds.

Nine WIN Work Incentives Coordinators are and would be employees of seven Centers for Independent Living (CILS). CILS are community based nonprofit organizations that enhance and promote independence for persons with disabilities and that are in compliance with section 725 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 701.

Three staff members are and would be employees of the State of Oregon Department of Human Services as follows:

Two WIN Coordinators devoted to:

- (A) Coordinating the network of collaboration
- (B) Supervising the functions of the Work Incentive Coordinators
- (C) Developing and implementing monthly, quarterly and annual trainings on complex information about federal and state programs related to benefits and work incentives for persons with disabilities.
- (D) Annual re-certification of existing Work Incentive Coordinators

(E) Providing ongoing technical support and assistance to Work Incentive Coordinators

One WIN Administrative staff devoted to:

(A) Daily verification of benefits of WIN participants through Social Security Administration, State of Oregon Department of Human Services and other sources for the nine Work Incentive Coordinators

(B) Coordinating and scheduling trainings; travel; conferences; dissemination of materials; budget oversight and provision of general clerical support.

There is a WIN Quality Management Committee that would continue to provide their services at no cost to WIN. Currently the Committee is comprised of representatives from Oregon's Social Security Administration; Protection and Advocacy Agency; Employment Department; Brain Injury Association; State Independent Living Council; Disability Business Technical Assistance Corporation; Council on Developmental Disabilities; Department of Human Services; and Supported Employment Center for Excellence. The Committee makes written suggestions for improvements to the network of collaboration including suggestions regarding training; infrastructure and policies, based on review of data presented; and would be able to produce an annual report detailing:

(A) The number of persons with disabilities obtaining, maintaining and advancing in employment that pays minimum wage or above and that enables persons with disabilities to interact with persons without disabilities to the fullest extent possible, and related increases in state tax revenue and;

(B) The number of adults using the network of collaboration and bypassing or decreasing usage of public assistance programs, including the Oregon Health Plan.

### **8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

The myriad of state and federal programs that support persons with disabilities have differing and sometimes conflicting eligibility criteria that discourage individuals from working. WIN provides the technical expertise and support needed to work through scenarios with each individual that allow him/her to obtain, maintain or advance in employment through usage of work incentives programs. In addition, WIN provides long-term follow along services and supports to all participants.

Preliminary findings on the WIN program show an increase in employment outcomes, as well as a decrease in utilization of Medicaid state plan services and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

The Social Security Administration currently considers .05% increase in employment rates as successful. Early studies in Oregon show that WIN participants have far exceeded the modest increase expected, with greater than 4% of the total population served gaining and maintaining employment.

Recipients of WIN services are showing a 22% increase in income one year post intervention. This translates into increased tax revenues for Oregon. The added benefit of increases in earnings is that it results in decreases in public support programs further compounding the benefit of the program.

**9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?**

Yes, however not through earmarked funds. The Oregon MIG has been fully supported with federal funding through the US Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Center for Medicaid and State Operations' (CMSO) Disability and Elderly Health Program (DEHPG) unit. Funding for the MIG is appropriated through the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Act of 1999, due to sunset December 31, 2011.

**9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

Year: MIG annual funding used to support WIN infrastructure FYs 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010.

Department: DHHS CMS CMSO DEHPG

Account: CFDA #93.768 grant to State of Oregon Office of Financial Services, CAF

MIG Funding spent on WIN to date:

2006:	\$ 123,577.00
2007:	273,168.56
2008:	454,300.87
2009:	569,577.00
2010: (Budgeted)	230,414.20
TOTAL	\$1,651,037.63

**Funding Details****10. Amount requested for this project:**

\$974,820

**11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

Salaries, benefits, indirect for 12 staff for one year: \$974,820

**12. What is the total cost of the project?**

\$974,818.50 for one year.

**13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?**

Yes

**14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)**

State of Oregon Department of Human Services' Children Adults and Families Division's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and their Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) is funding the Centers for Independent Living WIN staff and the DHS-WIN staff with time-limited funding.

In 2009 MIG spent \$569,577.00 out of a total MIG award of \$860,000.00 supporting WIN. OVRs spent a total of \$497,434.31 for CIL-WIN staff. The seven CILS provided approximately \$50,000.00 of in-kind support. If this funding is approved it would take the place of these time-limited investments in the program.

If this funding is approved, the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) to Oregon would also continue to

provide financial support on a time-limited basis. MIGs are funded through Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 legislation through December 31, 2011. If funding is approved Oregon's MIG would spend an additional \$250,000.00 on WIN through 12/31/2011 which would cover additional technology needed to support infrastructure; Grant Manager's and Operations and Policy Analyst 1 salaries who work part-time on WIN; outreach materials; and training costs. This additional \$250,000.00 from Oregon's MIG would enhance the project, but is not critical to its continuation.

If the funding is not approved it is possible that OVRS could continue to pay the twelve WIN staff salaries through Ticket to Work revenue or other time-limited funding. OVRS could possibly provide limited duration funding for one WIN Program Coordinator. In addition partners and advocates of WIN are pursuing state general funding for the program and the Oregon MIG is pursuing private/public grant funding for sustainability.

**15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.**

- Brain Injury Association of Oregon
- Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group
- Disability Business Technical Assistance Corporation NW/ADA Info-Oregon
- Disability Rights Oregon, Oregon's Protection and Advocacy Agency
- Learning a Living, Easter Seals of Oregon
- Mid-Valley Behavioral Care Network
- Oregon Business Leadership Network
- Oregon Centers for Independent Living: Independent Abilities (HASL); Central Oregon Resources for Independent Living; Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living; Lane Independent Living Alliance; Independent Living Resources; SPOKES Unlimited; Umpqua Valley Disabilities Network
- Oregon Department of Education
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition
- Oregon Developmental Disabilities Supported Employment Task Force
- Oregon Law Center
- Oregon Neighborhood Partnership Fund
- Oregon Technical Assistance Corporation
- Oregon Parent Training and Information Center
- Oregon Rehabilitation Association
- Oregon Social Security Administration
- Oregon Employment Department
- Oregon State Independent Living Council
- Oregon State Rehabilitation Association
- Oregon Supported Employment Center for Excellence
- Portland State University Regional Research Institute
- Teaching Research Institute, Monmouth, Western Oregon University
- Salem Hospital Regional Rehabilitation Center
- South Lane Mental Health
- Southern Oregon Options for Success
- State of Oregon Department of Human Services